

Message Text

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71

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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----- 028838

R 141550Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3755

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L C A P E T O W N 0113

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SF

SUBJECT: RECENT SAG BANNINGS

1. DURING COURSE OF FEB 14 MEETING WITH DFA UNDER SECRETARY BOOYSEN ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, CHARGE TOOK OCCASION TO REITERATE OUR CONTINUING CONCERN OVER SAG BANNINGS IN RECENT MONTHS. CITING DECEMBER BANNING OF BLACK LUTHERAN LEADER DR. MANAS BUTHELEZI, CHARGE TOLD BOOYSEN THAT THIS ACTION HAD TOUCHED OFF CHORUS OF CONGRESSIONAL AND OTHER DISAPPROVAL, PARTICULARLY SINCE BUTHELEZI WAS SO WELL KNOWN AND WELL REGARDED IN LUTHERAN CIRCLES IN U.S. SUCH ACTIONS, COMBINED WITH EQUIALLY WELL PUBLICIZED BANNINGS OF FOUR TRADE UNION LEADERS IN DURBAN, ARREST OF SWAPO LEADER MERORO IN WINDHOEK AND SIMILAR SAG ACTIONS COULD ONLY STRIKE AMERICANS AS REPUGNANT TO THEIR FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS OF JUSTICE.

2. BOOYSEN, SPEAKING "PRIVATELY," ADMITTED THAT THESE RECENT ACTIONS HAD ALSO CAUSED CONCERN IN DFA. HE SAID DFA OFFICIALS WERE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT EXTENT TO WHICH THEY DID SERIOUS DAMAGE TO SOUTH AFRIC'S IMAGE IN U.S. AND ELSEWHERE ABROAD. HE INDICATED THAT SEVERAL SAG AMBASSADORS ABROAD HAD WEIGHED IN ON THIS SUBJECT AND THAT RECURRING THEME WAS EXTENT TO WHICH

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SUCH ACTIONS MADE THEIR JOBS ABROAD MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. BOOYSEN

SAID DFA OFFICIALS UNDERSTOOD OUR CONTINUING CONCERN BUT HOPED WE WOULD UNDERSTAND THEIR INABILITY TO PREVAIL AT ALL TIMES IN INTRA-SAG COUNCILS.

3. COMMENT: FROM THIS AND OTHER INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH SENIOR DFA OFFICIALS, WE BELIEVE THAT CONCERN AMONG THEM OVER BANNINGS AND SIMILAR HAM-HANDED SAG ACTIONS IS GENUINE. HOWEVER, IF IN FACT FOREIGN MINISTER MULLER HAS WARNED HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES OF POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL CONSEQUENCES OF THESE BANNINGS, HE HAS CERTAINLY NOT RPT NOT SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING THEM. NOW THAT ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN IS UNDER WAY, HE IS EVEN LESS LIKELY TO DO SO IN NEXT FEW MONTHS. NEVERTHELESS, EMBOFFS WILL CONTINUE IN OUR CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS TO REFLECT OUR CONTINUING CONCERN.

SMITH

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